



THE

PROGRESSIVE

FARMER.

THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY.

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OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

What our Farmers are Doing and How the Work of Organizing is Progressing.

NOTES FROM CATAWBA.

HICKORY, November 11, 1886.

EDITOR PROGRESSIVE FARMER.—The busy season for the farmers being somewhat over, many farmers have rigged up their wagons for a trip to the mountains of Caldwell and Watauga counties for a supply of apples which should have been grown in our own Catawba orchards and could, if the people 10 years ago had given proper attention, and planted the trees in suitable land. Moderately low moist land is best for late apples.

Since the Fair at Hickory, the farmers having heard the good practical speech of Col. Polk on better education and better farming, are uniting more and more and are beginning to see things in a somewhat different light, and already more farmers' clubs are being formed for successful work. A visit through Catawba and Lincoln counties will show a much larger area of land in grass and clover than ever before. Owing to the continued drouth the area in wheat will be far less than was intended. The cotton crop is estimated at one-third, and in many cases one-half less than last year.

The new Iron bridge across South Fork, near Lincolnton, is completed at a cost of \$3,500. Some of the leading men of that county think that a wooden bridge built upon rock pillars and kept coursed would last as long and would have cost less than half the amount.

There is a young cow in that county that gives a pint of milk each milking, but has never had a calf, having been brought to milk by another calf sucking her.

FARMER.

THE SOUTH CAROLINA FARMERS.

We publish elsewhere the resolutions adopted by the convention of farmers in Columbia, S. C., last Wednesday, and commend them to the careful consideration of the farmers of this State. The movement among the farmers of our sister State, which has now attained such proportions as to command the respect of the party leaders, was inaugurated within the past year, under the lead of men who were in earnest, who had followers who were in earnest. It is incipiently the motives of the leaders were questioned, discussed and criticized. The effort was made to check the movement at first by ridicule and then by denunciation; but neither succeeded, and the work went on. The ridiculers and denouncers soon changed their tune and recognized the power which they could not crush. Several months ago the first convention was held in Columbia and it was found that instead of being composed of a few discontented men with political aspirations, to whom the movement had been attributed, it was composed of representative farmers, of some of the best and most substantial farmers and citizens in the State. It seemed to be a surprise to those who had tried to belittle it, and they at once recognized that body as one that could not be trifled with. It was no gathering of men concocting schemes for the advancement of personal interests, but to speak for the farmers of South Carolina, to declare their grievances and demand their rights. They made their declaration and formulated their demands. A committee on resolutions was formed to report at a subsequent meeting, and this committee after due consideration presented the resolutions at the meeting last Wednesday which we publish in this paper.

There is nothing inflammatory, or hot-blooded about them. Though pertinent and vigorous they are

thoughtful and conservative. They voice the sentiments of the farmers of South Carolina strongly, but respectfully, to the men who are to compose the next legislature of South Carolina, and tell them what the farmers of that State have a right to expect and insist upon at their hands. There is no buncombe, no bluster about it, but plain, matter-of-fact business talk by men who assembled for business and mean business.

We congratulate the farmers of that State on this methodical action in their interest, for while it may not at once result in accomplishing all they seek or wish, it will accomplish much, and lead to the accomplishment of even more perhaps than is demanded now. As a rule men who shape public policy have a great respect for interests which show a disposition and have the ability to take care of themselves. They respect what they cannot condemn and dare not defy. Now that the farmers of South Carolina have shown both the disposition and ability to take care of themselves we venture the prediction that there will be no disposition to ignore their demands by the legislature which next assembles in that State.

OUR STATE RAILROADS.

North Carolina Has 2095 Miles of Railway.

We are indebted to a friend who is informed on the subject for the following summary of the Railway system in this State showing a total of 2095 miles:

Goldsboro to Charlotte.....	223.15
Greensboro to Salem.....	25.20
Danville to Greensboro, in N. C....	45.00
Atlanta and Charlotte in N. C.....	43.65
Cape Fear & Yadkin Valley, Gr. to S. C. State line.....	144.50
S. C. Pacific Ry, in State.....	10.50
Carolina central, Wilmington to Shelby.....	242.00
Albemarle & Raleigh.....	32.00
Asheville & Spartanburg.....	48.00
Atlantic & N. Carolina.....	95.00
Atlantic, Tennessee & Ohio.....	44.00
Charlotte, Columbia & Augusta.....	11.50
Cheraw & Salisbury.....	14.00
Chester & Lenoir.....	62.20
Danville, Mocksville & South Western.....	7.75
Suffolk & Carolina.....	60.00
East Tenn. & West. N. C.....	3.00
Jamesville & Washington.....	22.00
Meherin Valley.....	1.25
Milton & Southerland.....	.25
Norfolk & Southern.....	52.89
Oxford to Henderson.....	13.00
Weldon to Pleasant Hill.....	9.39
Seaboard & Roanoke.....	20.50
Raleigh & Augusta Air Line.....	107.75
Raleigh & Gaston.....	95.75
Warrenton.....	3.00
Louisburg.....	10.90
Western North Carolina.....	282.00
Wilmington, Columbia & Augusta.....	66.00
Wilmington & Weldon.....	227.00
Wilson & Fayetteville.....	.74
	2095.23

—Goldsboro Messenger.

WHO IS THE OLDEST MAN.

Mr. W. J. Eudy, of this county, would answer this question by saying Wm. Whitley, of Stanly county, whose age is stated to be 110 years. Mr. Eudy is 60 himself, is a native of Stanly and says as far back as he can recollect the old gentleman was known as "Old Man Billy Whitley." He lives with his grandson William Whitley, a man of forty or fifty years, who says there is no doubt about the age of his grandfather. Mr. Eudy met the old man lately and says he was stepping around as nimbly as a youth of fifty and cutting up his tobacco like a patent granulator, with his third set of teeth, which are small like a child's, black and sharp-pointed.—Statesville Landmark.

—Mr. T. A. Linker of No. 1 township has discovered a vein of very rich gold ore. The ore is very free and can be reduced rapidly in a tamps mill.—Conecord Register.

COMING TO THE FRONT.

South Carolina Farmers in Convention. —A Few Practical Suggestions to the Law Makers.

The farmers of South Carolina are awake, and they are moving. They held a rousing convention in Columbia last Wednesday, at which the following platform was reported by the committee on resolutions and adopted:

After due consideration of the various resolutions referred to us, and taking into consideration the power invested in us to make independent recommendations of our own volition, we submit the following platform as embodying the substance of such resolutions as were acted upon favorably by the committee, and as indicating the reforms and measures which we deem of great importance to our interests as farmers and citizens:

We, the farmers of South Carolina, in convention assembled, after mature deliberation, and after all the light and experience gained since our last convention from the fullest discussion among ourselves as to the general objects to be attained, hereby express our continued and unshaken confidence in our farmers' association as now organized to accomplish great good for the State, if properly conducted and kept within legitimate bounds, and we hereby reiterate our determination that there shall be henceforth in South Carolina an organization for the protection and advancement of our agricultural interests.

In furtherance of this purpose, and as embodying the present views of the farmers of the State, we respectfully urge upon our General Assembly the necessity and advisability of the following measures:

1. The establishment of a real agricultural college, separate and distinct from the South Carolina College, and modeled after those of Mississippi and Michigan. We believe that the necessary funds to build and equip this institution can be secured by lopping off needless expenditures and abolishing or consolidating useless offices, without increased taxation. We further recommend, as a means to assist in building the institution, that the different counties of the State be empowered to bid for it by offering bonds or land.

2. That an experimental station should be established at or in connection with said agricultural and Mechanical College, the same to be under the charge of its faculty, and that we memorialize Congress to pass the bill introduced by Mr. Hatch, and now pending, which appropriates \$15,000 annually to each State for the purpose, and that we ask our Senators and Congressmen to use all legitimate means to secure its passage.

3. That in order that our agricultural administration may be divorced as far as possible from politics and politicians, and the best men qualified to perform these important duties be selected by those most competent to judge, in order that we may secure a board of agriculture at once, efficient, zealous and representative, who know our needs and will try to supply them, we also urge that instead of being chosen by the legislature they be elected by this Farmers' Association. The board of agriculture should consist of ten members five elected annually. They should have the power to elect their own secretary, whose duties would correspond with those of the present commissioner. Their duties would be the same as the law imposes on our present board, except as to the collection of the phosphate royalty which should be given to the Comptroller General. In addition they should have control of the agricultural college and experiment station, and should by means of farmers' institutions build up and keep alive coming agricultural associations.

4. That the system of inspection of fertilizers is now defective, and no

adequate punishment for frauds provided. We therefore urge such additional legislation as will secure the needed protection without imposing unnecessary restraint upon the manufacture and sale of fertilizers. Cotton seed meal, whether sold as a fertilizer or as feed for stock, should be inspected and its adulteration prohibited.

5. We urge the Legislature not to squander the State's property by allowing the wholesale exportation of phosphates at merely nominal prices and that with a view of lessening the burdens of taxation, they take into consideration the advisability of increasing the phosphate royalty.

6. We recommend the passage of such legislation as will protect the farmers of the State against imposition and fraud in the weighing of cotton.

7. We respectfully urge such legislation as will protect us against forest fires, negligently started.

8. The equalization of taxes demands earnest consideration at the hands of the Legislature and we urge such action as can best secure it.

9. We urge such alterations of the fee bill as will guard the estates of dead persons against abuses and provide protection for widows and orphans.

10. In order to secure the needed reforms in our county governments and to reduce the burden of taxation, as well as to secure such changes in the judicial system as may be needed, we earnestly request our legislators to consider the advisability of calling a constitutional convention unless, in their judgment, the necessary changes may be better obtained by amendment.

Arrangements have been made to have a committee of three members of the executive committee to reside in Columbia during the session of the Legislature to introduce the platform to the General assembly and to urge the passage of the measures therein recommended.

THE RAIL FENCE A TAX.

If any one wishes to know what a heavy tax the rail fence imposes on its owner, let him take a 100 acre farm and measure the loss. A rail fence will occupy a space one yard wide. A 100 acre farm has one third of a mile front, and about one half a mile deep. Or, we may say, 1,800 feet front, and 2,400 feet deep. Now we have two sides 1,800 feet, making 3,600 feet, and two sides 2,400 feet making 4,800 feet or a total of 8,400 feet. Multiply this by the three feet occupied by the fence, all around the field and we have 25,200 feet. This is the space that the rail fence will take up. Thus, in order to secure what some suppose to be an economical fence, the farmer taxes himself all this ground on a field of 100 acres. If his crops are worth \$10 an acre he pays tax thereon to his fence. If his crops pay him \$20 per acre, he pays tithe to his fence. Such a fence is a dear luxury. It also harbors all the weeds that can find a foothold in its corners, renders the farm unsightly and is more laborious to build. The only advantage in it is that the farmer can get the rails on his farm, and is, therefore not compelled to pay out cash at the sawmill or to the lumber merchant, but he pays for the fence in land and crops. This percent of his land goes to that fence every year and 10 per cent more for work done in getting rid of weeds seeded over the farm from its corners, in which harbor not only insects and vermin, but rabbits to gnaw the trees. Let the crooked rail fence go. It is not cheap at any price.—Farm, Field and Stockman.

The farmers of Franklin township, Rowan county organized a farmers' club last Saturday, and another will be organized in Scotch Irish township next Saturday.

State Items.

—The Rocky Mount cotton mills are being run night and day, to keep up with the orders. The manufacturers of cotton are now making money we gladly notice.—Goldsboro Argus.

—Satisfactory progress is being made on the new Female College building. It is expected to have it completed by the first of January. The session will open January 17.—Henderson Goldleaf.

—Wilmot Leach died in Washington Tuesday morning, and was buried yesterday at Hopewell, Randolph county. He had been in feeble health a long time, and went to Washington a few weeks ago, hoping to be benefited by the change.—Lexington Dispatch.

—Durham shipped last week 63,420 pounds of smoking tobacco, worth \$22,987; 667 pounds of chewing tobacco worth \$200; 1,078 pounds of snuff; 5,597,500 cigarettes worth \$18,424.70. At the warehouses last week 68,627 pounds of leaf tobacco were sold for \$6,792.77.—Durham Plant.

—At Salisbury last week we saw several car loads of fat beef cattle and hogs being shipped from Western North Carolina to the Richmond and Baltimore markets. We were told the cattle were chiefly from Cherokee, Haywood and other western counties.—Charlotte Democrat.

—We are informed that two Mormon missionaries, Parley M. Bingham and M. D. Ferrier, preached at old Red Level church in Monroe township and about five miles southwest of Monroe, last Friday night and expect to preach there again tomorrow night. In the meanwhile we learn they are preaching from house to house.—We were shown recently by Mr. J. G. Rogers, the agent of the Franklin Davis Nurseries, of Richmond, a Japanese persimmon, about which we have heard a great deal. This specimen was from a three year old tree and we were assured that it was not a fair sample of the fruit at its best. It was about the size of a teacup. The fruit is said to be of delicious flavor. We hope it may be introduced extensively in this section. It is said our soil is well adapted to it.—Monroe Enquirer.

—Nearly every body complains that the sweet potatoes are all rotting.—We notice that a number of persons in this section have sown a mixture of wheat and oats. They say they can raise more grain by this than to sow either of these grains separately.—Hogs are dying to a considerable extent in Winston. Messrs. Pfohl & Stockton lost two nice ones on Monday and two more on Tuesday. Some of them would have weighed 300 pounds. We hear of others who have hogs sick. A few have also died in Salem.—John Taylor, of this county, made 60 gallons of molasses from the cane that grew on three quarters of an acre of ground. He is selling the molasses at 40 cents a gallon. It would bring \$24, being the rate of \$32 an acre. The ground was not very fertile and would not have produced more than 10 or 12 bushels of corn per acre.—Salem Press.

HOW TO PURCHASE FURS.

In purchasing furs, a sure test of what dealers call prime fur is length and density of the down next the skin; this can be readily determined by blowing a brisk current of air from the mouth "against the set of fur." If the fiber opens readily, exposes the skin to view, reject the article; but if the down is so dense that the breath cannot penetrate it, or, at most, shows but a small portion of the skin, the article may be accepted.